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The Rural District Council  
of Gainsborough



# REPORT

OF THE

## Medical Officer of Health



For the Year  
1946

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Caldicotts Printers, Gainsborough.



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## **ANNUAL REPORT** **of the** **Medical Officer of Health** **for the year 1946.**

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Public Health Department,  
10/12, Lord Street,  
Gainsborough.  
1st September, 1947.

**TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS  
OF THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF GAINSBOROUGH.**

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### **Introduction to the Annual Report for 1946.**

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I beg to submit herewith the report on the Health and Sanitary conditions of your district for the year 1946.

Amongst features worthy of notice, attention is drawn to an increase by 250 in the Population figure compared with that for the year 1945. Increasing population makes problems in every aspect of Public Health Administration, especially Housing, and demands every effort in the direction of Sanitary progress.

The Birth Rate shows a very slight decrease, whilst there is a marked reduction in the Death Rate to the exceptionally low figure of 10.5 per 1,000 of the estimated population. A record is created by the very small Infantile Mortality Rate (the number of deaths of children under one year of age per 1,000 Live Births). This has dropped to 29.1. For all England and Wales the figure is 43. Last year this rate was 42.01 in your District.

No serious outbreaks of Infectious Disease occurred.

It can be said that the health and Sanitary conditions during the period under review compare favourably with other areas throughout the country, and this reflects great credit to the work of my predecessor, Dr. H. B. Willoughby Smith, who held office for thirty-five years.

The year 1946 marks an epoch in the history of your Health Department because of the installation of the first Whole-time Medical Officer of Health, who also serves in a similar capacity for Gainsborough Urban District and the Isle-of-Axholme Rural District, as well as assisting the County Medical Officer by carrying out certain work such as the duties of District Tuberculosis Officer and School Medical Inspector, under the administration of the County Council. This arrangement is in accordance with the County Council's scheme under the Local Government Act, 1933. It is now no longer permissible to appoint, in a part-time capacity, a Medical Officer who is not restricted from engaging in work as a private Medical Practitioner.

In conclusion I wish to convey to you my thanks for the support and kindly consideration which you have given to me in the work of the Public Health Department. I am also grateful for the helpful co-operation received from the Sanitary Inspector, the Water Engineer and the clerical staff.

J. C. MACARTNEY,

M.D. (Edin.), D.P.H.

## SECTION A.

### 1. STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area of the Rural District .....	78,598 acres
Estimated Population .....	10,350
Rateable Value on 31st March, 1946 .....	£37,218
Sum represented by 1d. Rate .....	£167

The district is entirely rural in character and the sole industry is agriculture.

### 2. EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS.

B. ESTIMATES FROM VITAL STATISTICS:					
			Male	Female	Total
Live Births .....			111	95	206
Legitimate .....			105	84	189
Illegitimate .....			6	11	17
Still Births .....			5	2	7
Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population .....					18.18
					Death
			Total	Male	Female
Deaths. 1946.	All Causes .....		109	53	56
					Rate
					10.5

#### DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR.

All Infants per 1,000 Live Births:—

	Male	Female	
Legitimate .....	3	2	
Illegitimate .....	1	0	
	—	—	
	4	2	Total: 6

Infantile Mortality Rate ..... 29.1

#### CAUSES OF DEATH.

Disease	Male	Female	Total
Whooping Cough .....	—	1	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis .....	—	2	2
Other Forms of Tuberculosis .....	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases .....	2	—	2
Influenza .....	1	4	5
Cancer .....	7	7	14
Diabetes .....	1	—	1
Intracranial Vascular Lesions .....	5	5	10
Heart Disease .....	19	20	39
Other Circulatory Diseases .....	3	4	7
Bronchitis .....	1	2	3
Pneumonia .....	—	2	2
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases .....	2	1	3
Nephritis .....	1	1	2
Premature Birth .....	—	1	1
Congenital Malformation, etc. ....	2	1	3
Violent Causes .....	2	2	4
Suicide .....	1	1	2
All Other Causes .....	6	2	8
	—	—	—
	53	56	109

## COMPARATIVE TABLES.

Births	Total	Male	Female	Birth Rate
1946 .....	206	111	95	18.18
1945 .....	199	88	111	19.7
Deaths	Total	Male	Female	Death Rate
1946 .....	109	53	56	10.5
1945 .....	125	69	56	12.3
Infantile Mortality (Deaths of Infants under 1 year)	Total	Male	Female	Infantile Mortality Rate
1946 .....	6	4	2	29.1
1945 .....	8	5	3	42.01
		†Birth Rate	†Death Rate	‡Infant Mortality
England and Wales .....		19.1	11.5	43
Gainsborough Rural District ...		18.18	10.5	29.1
† Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population.				
‡ Rates per 1,000 Live Births.				

## SECTION B.

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

#### HOSPITALS AVAILABLE:—

##### Fever:

Gainsborough Isolation Hospital—provided and maintained by the Urban District Council. Special provision is made by the Lindsey and Lincoln Joint Smallpox Hospital Board for cases of Smallpox.

##### Tuberculosis:

Branston Hall Sanatorium, Lincoln. Brumby Tuberculosis Hospital, Scunthorpe. Grimsby Corporation Sanatorium. Also others outside the County.

##### Maternity:

Maternity Home, Gainsborough—provided and maintained by Lindsey County Council.

##### Mental:

Bracebridge Mental Hospital and Harmston Hall Colony, Lincoln.

##### General:

Medical and Surgical cases can be admitted to the John Coupland Hospital, Gainsborough. For eligible cases there are also available the Reynard Hospital at Willingham-by-Stow, the Lincoln County Hospital, Scunthorpe War Memorial Hospital. Louth County Infirmary is a modern Municipal Hospital maintained by Lindsey County Council. Brigg Infirmary is under the same Authority.



### Laboratory Facilities:

Emergency Public Health Laboratory, Lincoln.  
Grimsby Corporation Laboratory.

### Ambulance Facilities:

- (a) For Infectious Cases:  
Gainsborough Isolation Hospital Ambulance.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases:  
Gainsborough Town Ambulance and the St. John Ambulance.

### Health Officers:

One Whole-time Medical Officer of Health for combined Districts. One Sanitary Inspector. The services of District Nurses and Midwives are available, and Lindsey County Council provide Health Visitors in connection with Tuberculosis, and Maternity and Child Welfare Services.

### Health Services Administered by the County Council:

Maternity and Child Welfare.  
Tuberculosis.  
School Medical Services.  
Venereal Diseases, etc.  
Clinics in connection with these services are available at Gainsborough, Scunthorpe or Lincoln according to proximity thereto.

## SECTION C.

### WATER SUPPLY.

Water is derived partly from the Council's boreholes at Glentham and partly by purchases in bulk from the Lincoln Corporation from their Elkesley Waterworks and from the Glanford Brigg Rural District Council. The providing of water supply is proceeding in connection with the Regional Water Supply Scheme, and will continue as rapidly as the availability of labour and material permits. Mains have recently been laid at Grayingham to be followed at Hemswell, Glentworth, Fillingham, Walkerith, Wildsworth, and East Ferry, with additional distribution mains at Stow and Sturton-by-Stow.

Samples for bacteriological examination proved to be satisfactory.

Number of Dwelling Houses supplied direct .....	1,129
"    "    "    "    "    from temporary	
Standpipes .....	305
Estimated population supplied direct .....	3,655
"    "    "    "    "    from temporary	
Standpipes .....	967

## **DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.**

No new works nor additions were made during the year, but a scheme is in preparation for the whole of the District.

## **OFFENSIVE TRADES.**

There is only one in the area. There were no contraventions of regulations.

## **FACTORIES ACT, 1937.**

Inspections were made by the Sanitary Inspector. No defects were reported.

## **SECTION D.**

### **HOUSING.**

1. Inspections.  
1,105 houses were inspected during 1946.
2. Defects.  
14 defects were remedied.
3. New houses.  
No new houses were completed by the Local Authority.  
Four houses were erected privately.

With the present trend of population towards an increasing percentage of old people, there will arise in future housing schemes, the need for consideration of provision of accommodation for the aged. This might be kept in mind when building resources are less limited.

## **SECTION E.**

### **(a) MILK SUPPLY.**

This was satisfactory. Samples are taken regularly by the County Council for testing.

Cowsheds. There are approximately 280 in the area.

Contraventions of regulations ..... None

### **(b) MEAT.**

The 16 registered Slaughterhouses in the District have been superseded by the use of the Public Abattoir in Gainsborough.



